

1996

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

April 24, 1996

Planning Retreat

MINUTES

The Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education met for its planning retreat in the Conference Room at the Patrick Henry Hotel in Roanoke, Virginia, on Wednesday, April 24, 1996, with the following members present:

Ms. Michelle Easton, President	Senator James P. Jones
Mrs. Lil F. Tuttle, Vice President	Mr. Lee Ware
Mr. Rayford L. Harris, Sr.	Mrs. Cheri P. Yecke

Dr. William C. Bosher, Jr.
Secretary and
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

Ms. Easton, president, presided and called the meeting to order at 1:26 P.M.

Highlight on Students

The William Ruffner Magnet Choir of Roanoke City Public Schools performed. The Choir was led by Ms. Susan Houston.

Invocation

Reverend Thomas L. Joyce, Pastor of First United Methodist Church of Salem, Virginia, gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Miss Lindsay Brown and Miss Heather Carpenter led the Pledge of Allegiance. The students are fourth graders at Roland E. Cook Elementary School in Roanoke County.

Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind Foundation

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The Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education adjourned and the Foundation of the Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind convened.

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Ms. Easton conducted business of the Foundation, including election of officers. Mr. Ware, elected President, proceeded with the meeting as noted on the agenda.

The Foundation of the Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind adjourned and the Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education reconvened.

Current Issues

Teacher Licensure Report

Mrs. Yecke stated that the Teacher Licensure Office will be funded through June 1996 but funds will be needed to sustain it. This issue will need to be readdressed by the Board. She reported that Don Cable noted discrepancies in the number of annual renewals between 1991 and 1995 from two documents. One document indicates 25,000 certificates renewed annually in 1991, and the other indicates there were 15,000 in 1995. She would like for the Department of Education staff to provide baseline data on this issue at the May meeting.

Letter from NCAA

Mrs. Yecke inquired about possible communication with NCAA regarding a letter that Board members received from George McGovern. Dr. Boshier explained that the Virginia High School League is reviewing this issue.

Mrs. Tuttle would like for this issue to be placed on the May agenda, with possible input from the Virginia High School League. She thinks that the Board should take a stand on this issue.

Literacy Passport Testing for Private Schools

Mrs. Yecke would like the issue of optional Literacy Passport Testing for private schools placed on the May agenda.

Board of Education Home Page

Mrs. Yecke reported that work is being done to design a detailed Board of Education home page. She commended the staff for their help and creativity.

Mrs. Yecke presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education agrees with Thomas Jefferson, who stated that **A**lf a nation expects to be ignorant and free...it expects what never was and never will be; and that **A**Wherever the people are well-informed, they

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may be trusted with their own government; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education believes that open, honest, and direct communication is the key to a well-informed public; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education recognizes the need for better and more inclusive communication with parents, members of local school boards, educators throughout the Commonwealth, and the public at large; and

WHEREAS, modern technology affords us numerous opportunities for the timely dissemination of important information; and

WHEREAS, an overwhelming number of positive comments have been received in response to the letter and information sent from the President of the Board to members of local school boards last month;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The President of the State Board of Education will communicate by letter with all local school boards during those months in which the Board meets.
2. As directed by the President, the State Board of Education will also provide information and be accessible through the establishment of the Board's Home Page on Virginia PEN.
3. The State Board of Education requests the State Superintendent to assist in the successful implementation of these efforts towards improved communication.

After discussion, it was decided that this resolution would be placed on the May agenda.

Executive Session

Mrs. Tuttle made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to Virginia Code '2.1-344.A.4, specifically to discuss personal matters not related to public business, in order to protect the privacy of individuals, and '2.1-344.A.6, to discuss the investing of public funds where competition and bargaining is involved relating to assessment. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Yecke and carried. The Board went into executive session at 2:13 p.m.

The Board recessed the executive session for the evening at 6:12 p.m.

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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

April 25, 1996

Planning Retreat

MINUTES

The Board of Education reconvened in executive session at 8:54 a.m. in the Conference Room at the Patrick Henry Hotel in Roanoke, Virginia, on Thursday, April 25, 1996, with the following members present:

Ms. Michelle Easton, President Mr. Lee Ware
Mrs. Lil F. Tuttle, Vice President Mrs. Cheri P. Yecke
Mr. Rayford L. Harris, Sr.

Dr. William C. Bosher, Jr.
Secretary and
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

Mrs. Tuttle made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ware, and carried unanimously, that the Board reconvene in open session. The Board reconvened at 4:17 p.m.

Mrs. Tuttle made a motion that the Board certify by roll call vote that to the best of each member's knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive session to which this certification motion applies, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive session were heard, discussed or considered by the Board.

Mr. Harris - Aye
Mrs. Tuttle - Aye
Ms. Yecke - Aye
Ms. Easton - Aye

Mr. Ware abstained from the motion but noted his concurrence with its substance.

The motion was made by Mrs. Yecke to elect to the ABTEL board vacancy, Ms. Michelle Brickner, and to the vocational education vacancy, Ms. Mary McCauley. Mr. Ware seconded the motion which

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carried.

Mr. Ware presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education affirms that Afree government rests, as does all progress upon the broadest possible diffusion of knowledge, and that the Commonwealth should avail itself of those talents which nature has sown so liberally among its people by assuring the opportunity for their fullest development by an effective system of education throughout the Commonwealth (Article 1, Section 15 of the Constitution of Virginia); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has the authority to Aprescribe requirements to ensure that student progress is measured and that school boards and school personnel are accountable pursuant to Section 22.1-253.13:3A of the Code of Virginia; and to evaluate the condition and needs of public education in the Commonwealth pursuant to Article VIII, Section 5 of the Constitution of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that local school boards, school personnel, students, parents, and communities should be fully informed of the criteria and methods by which student progress will be measured and that the Commonwealth's citizens should be fully informed of the educational effectiveness of their schools; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth's assessments must be reliable, valid, equitable, and generalizable to ensure the integrity of the test results reported for each student, school, and school division, as well as to instill public confidence by laying the foundation for accountability in the Commonwealth's system of public education; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth's assessments must be designed with consideration for preserving instructional time and to cover a broad range of content in each of the disciplines (Mathematics, Science, English and History and the Social Sciences [History]) and Technology; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth's assessments should reflect the Board of Education's continued commitment to fiscal responsibility; and

WHEREAS, standardized and machine-scoreable assessments are a proven means of measuring student achievement in the acquisition of knowledge and skills and can be designed to assess application, analysis, and reasoning skills; and

WHEREAS, non-traditional assessments, which may include direct observation, projects, exhibitions, demonstrations, and portfolios, are effective tools for teachers in evaluating classroom instruction and student learning, but have been found to be problematic and may be indefensible for statewide testing due to (i) the considerable expense in creating, administering, and scoring; (ii) the considerable classroom time involved in administering these assessments; and (iii) unproven methods for providing results that are reliable, valid, generalizable, and equitable in statewide testing for accountability; and

WHEREAS, the Board reaffirms that the supervision of schools in each school division is vested in the local school board pursuant to Article VIII, Section 7 of the Constitution of Virginia, and the evaluation of classroom instruction and instructional programs is the responsibility of local boards.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following assessments (Virginia State Assessment Program) be implemented in the Commonwealth:

I STATEWIDE SOL ASSESSMENTS

The Department of Education will issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to develop, administer, score, and report results of statewide standardized assessments and will include the following components:

A. Program Summary

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1. Purpose: To measure students=achievement in acquiring and directly applying the knowledge and academic skills defined in English, Mathematics, Science, History, and Technology Standards of Learning, and to measure students= skills to analyze, reason, synthesize information, make comparisons, and draw inferences.
2. Grade Levels: 3, 5, 8, 11.
3. Testing Format: Primarily machine-scoreable test items which provide a breadth of content coverage and ensure reliable and valid results.. A writing sample may be included.
4. Scores: Scores will be reported at student, school, school division, and state levels.

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B. Test Content

1. The SOL assessments will test the student's achievement in acquiring and applying the knowledge and academic skills of the English, Mathematics, History, Science, and Technology Standards of Learning. The skill expectations at each grade tested and in each content area will be presented to the Board for approval prior to test implementation. A document outlining these skill expectations will be available for public release.
2. The grade 3 SOL assessment will include K-3 SOLs in all four disciplines, with particular emphasis on reading skill and comprehension.
3. The grade 5 SOL assessment will include grades 4 and 5 SOLs in English, Mathematics, Science and Technology, as well as History SOLs through Virginia Studies.
4. The grade 8 SOL assessment will include grades 6, 7, and 8 SOLs in English, Mathematics, Science and Technology, as well as the History SOLs covering U. S. History, and Civics and Economics.
5. At the 11th grade level, the SOL assessment will:
 - a. report scores within disciplines (e.g. Biology within Science).
 - b. include content from the following areas within each discipline:
 - Mathematics: Algebra I and Geometry
 - Science: Earth Science and Biology
 - History: World History and World Geography
 - English: grades 9, 10, and 11

C. Multiple Forms of Assessments Required.

Different forms of the test will be developed so that a different test may be used in each administration.

II. NATIONALLY NORM-REFERENCED ACHIEVEMENT TEST (NRT):

The Department of Education will issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to adopt, administer, score, and report results of nationally normed-referenced standardized tests.

A. Program Summary:

1. Purpose: To provide nationally norm-referenced information on the achievement of students, schools, school divisions and the state.
2. Grade levels: 3, 5, 8, and 11.
3. Testing format: Nationally normed, standardized, machine-scoreable test.
4. Scores: Scores will be reported at the student, school, school division and state levels.

B. Test Content

1. English (to include reading comprehension), and Mathematics.
2. History and Science may be included.

Mrs. Tuttle made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Yecke, to adopt the resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

Scheduling of Meeting

Ms. Easton noted that the other three items on the agenda, which were not covered and are time sensitive, will be brought to the Board in a special meeting at a later date. Announcement of this meeting

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will be made as soon as it is scheduled.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Easton adjourned the meeting of the Virginia Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education at 4:32 P.M.

President